

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/938,512

Applicant(s)

ROOSEN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

James A. Thompson

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08 September 2006.
2. ☐ The allowed claim(s) is/are _____.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/272,556.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


DAVID MOORE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 2-8, filed 08 September 2006, with respect to the rejections of the claims under 35 USC §102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the claims under 35 USC §102(b) listed in the previous office action, mailed 08 June 2006, have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 3-7, 10-15 and 17-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The printer recited in claim 11, which performs the method recited in claim 7, (1) stores information on the capabilities of the other printers connected to the network system; (2) analyzes a received print file to determine the required capabilities for printing the file, and then determines if the printer has the capability to print the file; (3) if the printer cannot print the print job, the printer locally advises the user which printer in the network is capable of printing the print job; and (4) providing an operating means whereby the user locally issues the command to print if the printer can print the print job, which also allows the user to go to a different local printer that can print the print job if the current printer cannot and there issue the command to print the print job.

Examiner has not found the above combination of features in the prior art, either in a single reference or in a plurality references such that the combination of references would render the above features obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. Distributed and controlled printing is generally performed at the server level, such as shown in the previously applied prior art reference Rourke (US Patent 5,995,721), which is the closest prior art discovered. By distributing the print jobs and the capabilities of each printer to all the printers on the network system, and allowing individual control at each printer, a unique system has been developed which provides greater flexibility and decentralization compared with what is found in the prior art. Furthermore, centrally-controlled distribution is also generally found even in later art, such as Yorimoto (US Patent Application Publication 2006/0215219 A1) (see e.g. figure 8 of Yorimoto). The closest art found was Parry (US Patent Application Publication 2003/0133146 A1), but even this reference does not fully teach the independent

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claims, nor is the reference even *prior* art. Thus, present independent claims 7 and 11 do recite novel and non-obvious inventions and are therefore deemed allowable.

Claims 3-6, 10, 12-15 and 17-20 are deemed allowable due to their respective dependencies.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Thompson whose telephone number is 571-272-7441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



22 November 2006

James A. Thompson
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